(e) if so, whether Government would import more coins to meet the demand in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) There has been a general shortage of coins in the country.

(b) and (c) The Government has decided to import 1000 million pieces of coins during 1999-2000 (Re. 1=300 MPCs, Rs. 2=300 MPCs and Rs. 5=400 MPCs) on the basis of a Global Tender; this is yet to be finalised.

(d) and (e) The Government constantly reviews the availability of coins in the country and a decision to import coins is need-based. The Government Mints are being modernised and indigenous production of coins will substantially go up in 1999-2000. The enhanced indigenous production of coins together with proposed import will greatly relieve the pressure on currency notes. The Reserve Bank of India has taken steps to facilitate exchange of soiled notes with coins. It has also launched a special drive for exchange of soiled notes all over the country.

External Aid for Projects in Tripura

1495. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Tripura has sent proposals seeking external aid for projects relating to agriculture, roads, education and water resources;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the Central Government to provide such assistance; and

(c) what is the total amount of external aid received for developmental projects in Tripura so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For some projects, the proposals have been sent to the Administrative Ministries Planning Commission for their comments, while certain other projects have already been posed to the donors. In respect of one proposal, namely, Tripura School Education Project, OPEC Fund have agreed in principle to extend a loan of US $ 10 million. For another project, namely, Tripura State Road Project, Assistance for preparation of the project will be available from the World Bank loan for the States Road Infrastructure Development TA Project (Ln. 4114-IN).

(c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Classification of NPA Accounts

1496. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Estimates Committee has commented adversely on the working of banks account auditors and the inspectors of Reserve Bank of India on classification of non-performing asset accounts;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all public and private sector banks have classified NPA accounts according to their suitability; and

(c) what action Government propose to take/have taken against the Reserve Bank of India and the banks in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) In its Report presented to Lok Sabha on 15th December, 1998, the Committee on Estimates has, made some observations in this regard.

(b) It is not a fact that all public sector banks and private sector banks have classified NPA accounts according to their suitability. The classification of NPA accounts into sub-standard assets,